peared in the Indian Express dated 26th December, 1996 under the caption "FCI bungled, failed to transport wheat";

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken to look into this bungling on the part of the FCI and action taken against the officials guilty thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report was looked into and found without substance. Its main thrust that wheat stocks had not moved from Punjab and Haryana to the deficit States like West Bengal, Maharashtra and Kerala and as a result, the PDS commitments had not been met, was found incorrect. During 1996, 97.72 lakh tonnes of wheat was moved ex. North compared to 74.86 lakh tonnes in 1995, which was 30.5% higher. The other contention that concessional PDS rates of wheat had benefited traders and millers cartels, is also. untrue. No evidence of building by FCI officials was found.

(c) Question does not arise.

Wheat import and its impact on Domestic Market

185. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported by the Government since the beginning of the year 1997;

(b) the rate at which the contracted wheat has been imported or being imported vis-a-vis the prices in the international market;

(c) the total expenditure (in foreign exchange) to be incurred by Government on the wheat imports; and

(d) the likely impact of import on the wheat prices in the domestic market and its overall impact on the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Government has decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat to augment its availability in the domestic market. In pursuance of the decision the State Trading Corporation of India has so far contracted for import of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat at the rates indicated below:—

Country	Contracted price in US $ PMT	Prices quoted in International market (US $ PMT)
Australia	148—156 (FOB)	199.50—205.00 (FOB)
Canada	152.50 (FOB)	191.00 (FOB)
Argentina	173.00 (C&F)	144.00 (FOB)

The quantity of wheat that has already arrived is 4.36 lakh M.T. upto 20.2.97.

(c) and (d) The total foreign exchange expenditure on the quantity contracted so far is provisionally estimated at approx. US $ 290 Million.

The imported wheat stocks are expected to have a salutary effect in containing the open market prices of wheat.

खाद्यान्नों पर दी जाने वाली राजसहायता में निरन्तर वृद्धि

186. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत वर्षों के दौरान खाद्यान्नों पर दी जाने वाली राजसहायता में निरन्तर वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1993-94, 1994-95 और 1995-96 के दौरान सरकार द्वारा खाद्यान्न और चीनी पर राजसहायता के रूप में कितनी-कितनी धनराशि प्रदान की गई थी;

(ग) चालू वर्ष के दौरान राजसहायता के रूप में कितनी धनराशि प्रदान किए जाने का अनुमान है;

(घ) क्या वर्ष 1993-94 से देश में खुले बाजार में गेहूं, चावल, चीनी के मूल्यों में भी वृद्धि हुई है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1993-94 और 1996-97 में इन वस्तुओं के उपभोक्ता मूल्यों का पृथक-पृथक ब्यौरा क्या है?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। 1993-94 से 1995-96 के दौरान सब्सिडि के कारण भारतीय खाद्य निगम के लिए निम्नलिखित राशियां जारी की गई हैं:

(करोड़ रुपए में)

वर्ष	खाद्यान्न	चीनी	जोड़
1993-94	5537	—	5537
1994-95	4509	591	5100
1995-96	4960	417	5377

(ग) वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान बजट अनुमानों में इस खाते पर 5884 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया था। प्रावधान में जो परिवर्तन आवश्यक समझे गए हैं उन्हें 1996-97 के संशोधित अनुमानों में समाहित किया गया है और 1997-98 के संघीय बजट में शामिल किया गया है।

(घ) और (ङ) खाद्यान्नों और चीनी के खुले बाजार के मूल्य मांग और उपलब्धता/आपूर्ति की स्थिति पर निर्भर करते हुए स्थान-दर-स्थान और समय-दर-समय भिन्न-भिन्न होते हैं। देश में 1993-94 और 1996-97, जनवरी, 1997 तक के दौरान गेहूं, चावल और चीनी के खुले बाजार के मूल्य (थोक) की रेंज निम्नानुसार थी:—

(रुपये प्रति क्विंटल)

विपणन वर्ष	गेहूं	चावल	चीनी
1993-94	305 से 555	425 से 880	1113 से 1600
1996-97 (जनवरी, 97 तक)	380 से 775	690 से 1080	1213 से 1540

Payment of Dues to the Sugarcane Growers in Uttar Pradesh

187. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of cane growers in U.P. have not been paid their dues by the sugar mills despite assurances given by the Prime Minister to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues as on the 1st January, 1997 and by when these are likely to be cleared;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the plight of farmers in U.P. on account of non-payment of Rs. 72 to 76 per quintal of canes and suspension of operation by some of the sugar mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, as on 01.01.1997, Rs. 133 crores were outstanding as cane price dues to the farmers. However, as per latest available information, as on 13.02.1997, only Rs. 35.00 crores cane price dues were outstanding which is 1.04% of the total price payable.

(c) and (d) Mills in the Public and Cooperative Sectors are paying cane price at Rs. 72 to Rs. 76 per quintal during the current season, 1996-97, while most of the sugar mills pertaining to Private Sector are paying Rs. 70 per quintal.

Import of Good Quality Wheat

188. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will import two million tonnes of wheat by end of